

In the Claims

Claims 1 to 13 stand of record in the case.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9, 11 and 13 stand rejected.

Claims 3-6, 8, 10 and 12 are objected to.

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

1.(currently amended) A crop harvesting header for a combine harvester comprising:

a main frame structure extending across between two ends of the header across a width of the header for movement in a direction generally at right angles to the width across ground including a crop to be harvested;

a mounting assembly for attachment to a feeder house of the combine harvester for carrying the main frame structure on the combine harvester;

a crop receiving table carried on the main frame structure across the width of the header;

a cutter bar across a front of the table carrying a cutter knife operable for cutting the crop as the header is moved forwardly across the ground for depositing the crop onto the table;

and a crop transport system for moving the cut crop toward a discharge location of the header for feeding the crop into a feed opening of the feeder house of the combine harvester;

the crop transport system including:

a first side draper having an outer end guide roller at a first end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a second side draper having an outer end guide roller at a second end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the

header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a feed draper located at the discharge location and including a front guide roller adjacent the cutter bar, a rear guide roller behind the front guide roller and a draper canvas wrapped around the front and rear guide rollers to define a top run of the feed draper for receiving the crop material from the discharge ends of the first and second side drapers and for carrying the crop material rearwardly toward the feed opening of the combine harvester; and

and a driven rotating rotary feed member at the discharge location arranged at a position in front of the feed opening of the feeder house and having crop engaging feeding members extending therefrom such that the crop is fed carried underneath the driven rotating rotary feed member and fed thereby into the inlet feed opening of the combine harvester;

the driven rotating rotary feed member being mounted ~~on a mounting assembly~~ for upward and downward pivotal floating movement in response to changes in thickness of the crop within the discharge location;

the driven rotating rotary feed member having a length between ends thereof which is less than the spacing between the side drapers;

the driven rotating rotary feed member having each of the ends thereof located inwardly of the respective side draper such that the driven rotating rotary feed member when moved downwardly on its mounting assembly to a lowermost position has at least part of its periphery between the inner ends of the side drapers;

and the driven rotating rotary feed member being arranged to extend to a forward edge at a position forwardly of a rear of the side drapers.

2.(currently amended) The header according to Claim 1 wherein the header includes generally upstanding rear sheets behind the side drapers and

including a central opening in the rear sheets for allowing the crop to pass to the ~~inlet of the combine harvester~~ the feed opening of the feeder house and wherein the driven rotating rotary feed member is located in the central opening such that a part of its periphery projects to a position forwardly of the rear sheets through the opening.

3.(currently amended) ~~The header according to Claim 1~~ A crop harvesting header for a combine harvester comprising:

a main frame structure extending across between two ends of the header across a width of the header for movement in a direction generally at right angles to the width across ground including a crop to be harvested;

a mounting assembly for attachment to a feeder house of the combine harvester for carrying the main frame structure on the combine harvester;

a crop receiving table carried on the main frame structure across the width of the header;

a cutter bar across a front of the table carrying a cutter knife operable for cutting the crop as the header is moved forwardly across the ground for depositing the crop onto the table;

and a crop transport system for moving the cut crop toward a discharge location of the header for feeding the crop into a feed opening of the feeder house of the combine harvester;

the crop transport system including:

a first side draper having an outer end guide roller at a first end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a second side draper having an outer end guide roller at a

second end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a feed draper located at the discharge location and including a front guide roller adjacent the cutter bar, a rear guide roller behind the front guide roller and a draper canvas wrapped around the front and rear guide rollers to define a top run of the feed draper for receiving the crop material from the discharge ends of the first and second side drapers and for carrying the crop material rearwardly toward the feed opening of the combine harvester; and

and a rotary feed member at the discharge location arranged such that the crop is fed underneath the rotary feed member to the inlet opening of the combine harvester;

the rotary feed member having a length between ends thereof which is less than the spacing between the side drapers;

the rotary feed member having each of the ends thereof located inwardly of the respective side draper such that the rotary feed member when moved downwardly on its mounting assembly to a lowermost position has at least part of its periphery between the inner ends of the side drapers;

and the rotary feed member being arranged to extend to a forward edge at a position forwardly of a rear of the side drapers;

wherein the rotary feed member is mounted on pivotal support members arranged to be carried on the mounting assembly which is fixed relative to the inlet of the feeder house of the combine harvester such that the rotary feed member can pivot to accommodate changes in volume of the crop while moving in an arc which is at a predetermined location relative to the inlet the feed opening of the feeder house.

4.(currently amended) ~~The header according to Claim 1~~ A crop harvesting header for a combine harvester comprising:

a main frame structure extending across between two ends of the header across a width of the header for movement in a direction generally at right angles to the width across ground including a crop to be harvested;

a mounting assembly for attachment to a feeder house of the combine harvester for carrying the main frame structure on the combine harvester;

a crop receiving table carried on the main frame structure across the width of the header;

a cutter bar across a front of the table carrying a cutter knife operable for cutting the crop as the header is moved forwardly across the ground for depositing the crop onto the table;

and a crop transport system for moving the cut crop toward a discharge location of the header for feeding the crop into a feed opening of the feeder house of the combine harvester;

the crop transport system including:

a first side draper having an outer end guide roller at a first end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a second side draper having an outer end guide roller at a second end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a feed draper located at the discharge location and including a front guide roller adjacent the cutter bar, a rear guide roller behind the front guide roller and a draper canvas wrapped around the front and rear guide rollers to define a top run of the feed draper for receiving the crop material from the discharge ends of the first and second side drapers and for carrying the crop material rearwardly toward the feed opening of the combine harvester; and

and a rotary feed member at the discharge location arranged such that the crop is fed underneath the rotary feed member to the inlet opening of the combine harvester;

the rotary feed member being mounted for upward and downward movement to accommodate changes in crop thickness;

the rotary feed member having a length between ends thereof which is less than the spacing between the side drapers;

the rotary feed member having each of the ends thereof located inwardly of the respective side draper such that the rotary feed member when moved downwardly on its mounting assembly to a lowermost position has at least part of its periphery between the inner ends of the side drapers;

and the rotary feed member being arranged to extend to a forward edge at a position forwardly of a rear of the side drapers;

wherein there is provided a stationary pan underneath the rotary feed member such that the rotary feed member carries the crop over the pan to the inlet of the combine harvester, the pan having a front edge adjacent the rear roller of the feed draper to receive crop material therefrom.

5.(currently amended) The header according to Claim 4 wherein the pan and the feed draper are mounted on a common support assembly, which support assembly is mounted for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis at the rear

of the pan relative to the mounting assembly and thus relative to the inlet of the combine harvester.

6.(original) The header according to Claim 5 wherein the support assembly comprises a pair of arms each at a respective side of the feed draper and each extending to a forward end carried on the header adjacent the cutter bar.

7.(original) The header according to Claim 1 wherein the feed draper is wider than the distance between the inner ends of the side drapers and is located underneath the side drapers.

8.(original) The header according to Claim 1 wherein the rotary feed member has an outer surface which is spaced from the rear end of the feed draper by a distance which is less than or equal to 50 mm.

9.(currently amended) A crop harvesting header for a combine harvester comprising:

a main frame structure extending across between two ends of the header across a width of the header for movement in a direction generally at right angles to the width across ground including a crop to be harvested;

a mounting assembly for attachment to a feeder house of the combine harvester for carrying the main frame structure on the combine harvester;

a crop receiving table carried on the main frame structure across the width of the header;

a cutter bar across a front of the table carrying a cutter knife operable for cutting the crop as the header is moved forwardly across the ground for depositing the crop onto the table;

and a crop transport system for moving the cut crop toward a discharge location of the header and for feeding the crop into a feed opening of the combine harvester;



the crop transport system including:

a first side draper having an outer end guide roller at a first end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a second side draper having an outer end guide roller at a second end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a feed draper located at the discharge location and including a front guide roller adjacent the cutter bar, a rear guide roller behind the front guide roller and a draper canvas wrapped around the front and rear guide rollers to define a top run of the feed draper for receiving the crop material from the discharge ends of the first and second side drapers and for carrying the crop material rearwardly toward the feed opening of the combine harvester; and

and a driven rotating ~~rotary~~ feed member at the discharge location arranged at a position in front of the feed opening of the feeder house such that the crop is ~~fed~~ carried underneath the driven rotating ~~rotary~~ feed member and fed thereby into the inlet feed opening of the combine harvester;

a stationary pan underneath the driven rotating ~~rotary~~ feed member such that the driven rotating ~~rotary~~ feed member carries the crop over the pan to the inlet of the combine harvester, the pan having a front edge adjacent the rear roller of the feed draper to receive crop material therefrom;

wherein the pan and the feed draper are mounted on a common support

assembly, which support assembly is mounted for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis at the rear of the pan relative to the mounting assembly and thus relative to the ~~inlet~~ feeder house of the combine harvester.

10.(currently amended) ~~The header according to Claim 9~~ A crop harvesting header for a combine harvester comprising:

a main frame structure extending across between two ends of the header across a width of the header for movement in a direction generally at right angles to the width across ground including a crop to be harvested;

a mounting assembly for attachment to a feeder house of the combine harvester for carrying the main frame structure on the combine harvester;

a crop receiving table carried on the main frame structure across the width of the header;

a cutter bar across a front of the table carrying a cutter knife operable for cutting the crop as the header is moved forwardly across the ground for depositing the crop onto the table;

and a crop transport system for moving the cut crop toward a discharge location of the header and for feeding the crop into a feed opening of the combine harvester;

the crop transport system including:

a first side draper having an outer end guide roller at a first end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a second side draper having an outer end guide roller at a second end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location

and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a feed draper located at the discharge location and including a front guide roller adjacent the cutter bar, a rear guide roller behind the front guide roller and a draper canvas wrapped around the front and rear guide rollers to define a top run of the feed draper for receiving the crop material from the discharge ends of the first and second side drapers and for carrying the crop material rearwardly toward the feed opening of the combine harvester; and

and a driven rotating feed member at the discharge location arranged at a position in front of the feed opening of the feeder house such that the crop is carried underneath the driven rotating feed member and fed thereby into the feed opening of the combine harvester;

a stationary pan underneath the driven rotating feed member such that the driven rotating feed member carries the crop over the pan to the inlet of the combine harvester, the pan having a front edge adjacent the rear roller of the feed draper to receive crop material therefrom;

wherein the pan and the feed draper are mounted on a common support assembly, which support assembly is mounted for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis at the rear of the pan relative to the mounting assembly and thus relative to the feeder house of the combine harvester;

wherein the support assembly comprises a pair of arms each at a respective side of the feed draper and each extending to a forward end carried on the header adjacent the cutter bar.

11.(original) The header according to Claim 9 wherein the feed draper is wider than the distance between the inner ends of the side drapers and is located

underneath the side drapers.

12.(currently amended) ~~The header according to Claim 9~~ A crop harvesting header for a combine harvester comprising:

a main frame structure extending across between two ends of the header across a width of the header for movement in a direction generally at right angles to the width across ground including a crop to be harvested;

a mounting assembly for attachment to a feeder house of the combine harvester for carrying the main frame structure on the combine harvester;

a crop receiving table carried on the main frame structure across the width of the header;

a cutter bar across a front of the table carrying a cutter knife operable for cutting the crop as the header is moved forwardly across the ground for depositing the crop onto the table;

and a crop transport system for moving the cut crop toward a discharge location of the header and for feeding the crop into a feed opening of the combine harvester;

the crop transport system including:

a first side draper having an outer end guide roller at a first end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a second side draper having an outer end guide roller at a second end of the header, an inner end guide roller adjacent the discharge location and a continuous draper canvas wrapped around the outer and inner guide rollers to define a top run of the canvas for carrying the cut crop from the knife across the

header to a discharge end adjacent the discharge location;

a feed draper located at the discharge location and including a front guide roller adjacent the cutter bar, a rear guide roller behind the front guide roller and a draper canvas wrapped around the front and rear guide rollers to define a top run of the feed draper for receiving the crop material from the discharge ends of the first and second side drapers and for carrying the crop material rearwardly toward the feed opening of the combine harvester; and

and a driven rotating feed member at the discharge location arranged at a position in front of the feed opening of the feeder house such that the crop is carried underneath the driven rotating feed member and fed thereby into the feed opening of the combine harvester;

a stationary pan underneath the driven rotating feed member such that the driven rotating feed member carries the crop over the pan to the inlet of the combine harvester, the pan having a front edge adjacent the rear roller of the feed draper to receive crop material therefrom;

wherein the pan and the feed draper are mounted on a common support assembly, which support assembly is mounted for pivotal movement about a horizontal axis at the rear of the pan relative to the mounting assembly and thus relative to the feeder house of the combine harvester;

wherein the driven rotating ~~rotary~~ feed member is mounted on pivotal support members arranged to be carried on the mounting assembly which is fixed relative to the inlet of the feeder house of the combine harvester such that the driven rotating ~~rotary~~ feed member can pivot to accommodate changes in volume of the crop while moving in an arc which is at a predetermined location relative to the inlet.

13.(currently amended) The header according to Claim 9 wherein the driven rotating ~~rotary~~ feed member has an outer surface which is spaced from the rear

end of the feed draper by a distance which is less than or equal to 50 mm.